Delay of flights

†1876. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of national and international flights that arrived late and took off late in December, 2007 and January, 2008;

(b) the reasons for delay of flights;

(c) the total loss incurred due to delay in flights; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to ensure no delay in flights and to avoid inconvenience to the passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Stipulation of crew limit

1877. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) norms stipulate three sets of crew for each aeroplane but Indian carriers are keeping five sets;

(b) if so, whether all carriers would be asked to strictly follow the DGCA norms;

(c) whether Air India, Indian and Air India Express are following the prescribed norms; and

(d) if so, the total strength of crew members and number of aircrafts on active service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per Civil Aviation Requirements Section 3, Part II issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), there shall be sufficient number of flight and cabin crew but not less than three sets of crew per aircraft. This is, however, the minimum requirement which is to be met by all operators. There is no restriction for employing more than three sets of aircrew.

(c) and (d) Air India has 688 pilots for 36 aircrafts, Indian Airlines has 782 pilots for 72 aircrafts and Air India Express has 123 pilots for 17 aircrafts.

Losses to Air India and Indian Airlines

1878. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

(a) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have reportedly incurred loss of nearly Rs. 850 crore for 2006-07 fiscal;

(b) if so, the reasons for such huge losses by the national carriers;

(c) whether Government is also aware that there has been a forty per cent growth in the Indian aviation sector; and

(d) if so, what steps Government has taken so far to improve the operations and profits of both Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines have incurred a net loss of Rs. 447.93 crores and Rs. 240.29 crores respectively during the year 2006-07.

(b) A combination of factors such as high Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices, rising labour costs including payment of wage arrears of more than Rs. 700 crores, loans raised for acquisition of new aircraft and intense price competition among the airline operators have been the main reasons for the losses.

(c) In 2007, the domestic passenger carriage in India has grown by approximately 33% over the previous year.

(d) In order to improve the operational performance and profitability, the Government has approved the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines into National Aviation Company of India Limited. Their merger has the potential to provide substantial synergy for procurement, sales and distribution besides affording an opportunity for financial restructuring/ strengthening by leveraging common assets.

Further, the airlines have been permitted to add more capacity by purchasing 111 state-of-the-art new aircraft. Other commercial measures such as route rationalization alongwith introduction of services on new routes, product improvement and joining of 'Star Alliance' have also been taken by NACIL.

Aviation Academy in Kerala

1879. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to upgrade the Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy in Kerala to a National Institute to enable advance private training of the Pilots; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy has been set up by the State Government of Kerala. The institute is not operational presently. There is no proposal with Ministry of Civil Aviation to elevate the academy as National Institute.